

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-06

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R 121331Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1965

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 1510

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR MI ZA

SUBJECT: SIGNS OF UNEASE IN GOM

REF: BLANTYRE 0923; STATE 185055

1. WE CAN UNDERSTAND GOM'S CONCERN THAT INCREASING EMPHASIS ON SOCIALIST POLICIES IN ZAMBIA, AS WELL AS IN MOZAMBIQUE AND TANZANIA, FURTHER DIFFERENTIATES MALAWI AS "ODD MAN OUT" IN THIS PART OF AFRICA. HOWEVER, WHATEVER RESERVATIONS PRESIDENT KAUNDA AND HIS ADVISORS MAY HAVE ABOUT PRESIDENT BANDA'S DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICIES, WE SEE NO EVIDENCE HERE THAT ZAMBIA IS PLANNING PARTICIPATE IN DELIBERATE ATTEMPT EXERCISE ECONOMIC PRESSURES ON MALAWI OR TO SUPPORT OVERTHROW OF BANDA REGIME.

2. ADMITTEDLY RECENT JOINT ZAMBIAN - FRELIMO CONSTRUCTION OF DRY-WEATHER ROAD LINK BETWEEN TETE AND KATETE WOULD ENABLE ZAMBIANS TO OBTAIN ESSENTIAL IMPORTS FROM MAZAMBICAN PORTS WERE FRELIMO GOVERNMENT TO CLOSE ITS PORTS AND BORDER TO MALAWI. HOWEVER, CONSTRUCTION OF ROAD MORE LIKELY LINKED
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TO DESIRE BY-PASS EXISTING TRANSPORT BOTTLE-NECK IN MALAWI

RATHER THAN TO EXERT POLITICAL PRESSURE ON BANDA REGIME.
ZAMBIAN AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE AT TIME OF BANDA STATE VISIT
LAST FEBRUARY TO CONSTRUCT NEW RAIL LINK TO MALAWI BORDER AT
CHIPATA INDICATES DESIRE MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE TRANSPORT LINKS
TO SEA THROUGH MALAWI. ZAMBIAN INTEREST IN THIS RAIL LINK
REAFFIRMED BY PRESIDENT KAUNDA AUGUST 9 IN SPEECH OPENING
LUSAKA AGRICULTURAL AND COMMERCIAL SHOW.

3. FURTHER INDICATION PRESENTLY BENIGN ZAMBIAN ATTITUDE
TOWARD MALAWI CAME IN REMARKS KAUNDA MADE AUGUST 11 IN
ACCEPTING CREDENTIALS NEW MALAWI HICOM KAKHOBWE AND PROMIN-
ENTLY FEATURED GRZ-OWNED DAILY MAIL AND PARTY-OWNED TIMES
OF ZAMBIA. PRESIDENT EMPHASIZED NEED FOR CLOSER COLLABORATION
BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS AND PEOPLES OF REGION AND CALLED FOR MORE
COOPERATION BETWEEN MALAWI CONGRESS PARTY AND ZAMBIA'S
RULING UNIP. AT SAME TIME PRESIDENT NOTED MALAWI HOLDS
"A VERY IMPORTANT POSITION" IN RELATION TO SOUTHERN AFRICAN
FREEDOM STRUGGLE AND SAID IT IS DUTY OF LEADERS SUCH AS BANDA,
HIMSELF, NYERE, MACHEL, ETC., TO HELP CHANGE STATUS QUO AND
TO PROMOTE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

4. IN EVENT RELATIONS BETWEEN MALAWI AND MOZAMBIQUE WERE
TO DETERIORATE TO POINT THAT MOZAMBIKAN BORDER WERE CLOSED,
ZAMBIANS WOULD OBVIOUSLY FACE AWKWARD DECISIONS. WHIT IT SEEMS
UNLIKELY KAUNDA WOULD ACTIVELY SUPPORT FRELIMO-SPONSORED
INITIATIVE TO OVERTHROW BANDA REGIME, FACTS OF GEOGRAPHY
AND FEELINGS OF ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL KINSHIP TO FRELIMO
WOULD PROBABLY PERSUADE KAUNDA TO REMAIN NEUTRAL AND WITHHOLD
SUPPORT FROM MALAWI LEADERSHIP.

5. AMBASSADOR WILKOWSKI CURRENTLY IN MALAWI AND MAY WISH
COMMENT FURTHER FOLLOWING HER RETURN TO LUSAKA.
WRAMPELMEIER

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